

## ABSTRACT

A method of estimating QoS for making a handoff trigger decision for a remote terminal in a wireless IP network is disclosed. At least a first and second probing packet is generated with an access router from a plurality of access points. The first and second probing packets are then sent from the access routers over a fixed core network having a plurality of routers to a correspondent access router and then back to the access routers. At least one collector packet is also generated and sent to follow the first and second probing packets to gather at least one predetermined QoS parameter from the routers after the first and second probing packets have left the routers. The QoS parameters are then processed with the access routers to make the handoff trigger decision preferentially along with layer two QoS parameters of the wireless hop.